

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4627

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 5453

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, BR

SUBJECT: CUBA AND THE OAS

REF: STATE 159031

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA, COMPLETELY TIED UP WITH VISIT OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WHO ARRIVES IN BRASILIA THIS AFTERNOON, I SAW AMBASSADOR GUERREIRO, THE SECRETARY GENERAL, THIS MORNING.

2. AFTER I HAD GONE OVER IN DETAIL THE CONTENTS OF REFTEL, GUERREIRO STATED THAT THE MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM THE EMBASSY IN SAN JOSE ABOUT FACIO'S INITIATIVE A FEW DAYS AGO BUT, BECAUSE OF THE TOTAL ABSORPTION OF THE HIGHER LEVELS ON THE ECHEVERRIA VISIT, THE MATTER HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN ANY THOUGHT. HE SAID THAT, MOREOVER, THE TELEGRAM HAD NOT LED HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE WAS SO MUCH URGENCY AND FORCE BEHIND THE EFFORT AS OUR INFORMATION CLEARLY INDICATED. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD GAINED THE IMPRESSION FROM THE INFORMATION HE HAD RECEIVED EARLIER THAT FACIO'S SOUNDINGS OF VENEZUELA ET AL. WERE GOING TO TAKE SOME TIME. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD NOT REALIZED THAT THERE WOULD BE A SHORT, FIXED PERIOD OF TWO MONTHS FOR THE PROPOSED COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY TO REPORT. HERE GUERREIRO MADE THE GENERAL COMMENT THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THE DECISION OF THE WASHINGTON MFM TO AUTHORIZE ARGENTINA TO CONSULT ON CUBA'S PRESENCE AT BUENOS AIRES TO HAVE BEEN
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A MEANS OF PUTTING OFF THE QUESTION. NOW, HE NOTED, THE

US INFORMATION, FOR WHICH HE WAS GRATEFUL, INDICATES THAT THAT EXPECTATION HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN.

3. SAYING THAT IT WAS OBVIOUSLY NECESSARY TO EXAMINE THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS CAREFULLY AND QUICKLY, HE PROMISED THAT HE WOULD TALK TO SILVEIRA PROMPTLY AND THAT THEY WOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH ME SOON AFTER THE ECHEVERRIA VISIT, PROBABLY ON THURSDAY, JULY 25.

4. RE PARA 11 REFTTEL: WE SEE NO REASON TO CHANGE OUR DESCRIPTION OF THE GEISEL GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE TOWARD CUBA CONTAINED IN BRASILIA 2388 OF APRIL, EXCEPT TO NOTE THAT THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT SIGNIFICANT SECTIONS OF THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY WOULD NOW PROBABLY REQUIRE EVEN MORE CAREFUL HANDLING THAN BEFORE IF ANY BASIC CHANGE WERE TO BE PROPOSED.
CRIMMINS

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